



Florida House of Representatives

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MCKEEL BILL BRINGS TRANSPARENCY TO THE POLITICAL PROCESS

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Legislation passed this morning by Representative Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland) will provide more transparency to the political process by establishing a new type of political party committee known as an Affiliated Party Committee designed to enhance the reporting of donations and expenditures by political parties.

“Legislative leaders have long raised money for their respective parties, and under the current system, citizens struggle to see how much money has been raised or see which interests gave that money,” said Representative McKeel. “This bill brings transparency to the political process by making that information easily accessible to the voters and the general public.”

Affiliated Party Committees (APC) will be subject to all of the requirements and regulations of current political parties. Committees will report quarterly and all credit card expenditures and expense reimbursements made by these APC will be itemized and posted online. Currently all party contributions are co-mingled and the public is unable to see who has solicited which contributions. The measure maintains the same strict controls on in-kind contributions that are in current law, requiring that any in-kind contribution be for the direct benefit of the affiliated party committee.

The bill allows each party to have one affiliated committee for each chamber of the Legislature. The leader of each party caucus in each chamber is authorized to establish the committee.

(more)

CS/HB 1207 also reenacts and revises provisions of law related to electioneering communications and electioneering communications organizations to address concerns raised in the Broward Coalition decision.

On May 22, 2009 portions of Florida law regulating electioneering communications and electioneering communications organizations (ECO) were held unconstitutional by a federal judge. This ruling effectively deregulated the electioneering communications and electioneering communications organizations. The measure redefines electioneering communications by removing references to issues and limiting the type of media regulated to communications broadcast by television station, radio station, cable television system, satellite system, newspaper, magazine, direct mail and telephone.

“Currently with the ECO’s unregulated, Florida is operating like the wild, wild, west, “said McKeel.

The bill passed the House Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council and now moves on to House Floor.

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